

INTELLOFAX 8

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 8 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Military Information from the Plovdiv Area
2. Imprisonment of Leading Personalities

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. A Border Guard battalion of 600-700 men and a reserve officers refresher school are located in the former 9 Infantry barracks in Plovdiv. Part of an armored brigade is in the 2 Engineer Regiment barracks; the other part was sent to Potevgrad where an armored school is located.
2. There are 500 special troops, housed in the former cavalry barracks, guarding sensitive installations in Plovdiv. Detachments of these troops are located in all major towns.
3. A divisional artillery regiment,¹ 2 Engineering Regiment, an antiaircraft artillery unit and an airforce ground unit are also in Plovdiv. The 9 Infantry Regiment is presently located on the Maritsa River near the Plovdiv sugar factory. The new armored barracks in Plovdiv, on the Pazardjik road were taken from the armored units and made into a supply depot.
4. Six officers from Silistra were transferred to border units below Smolyan. These officers stated that hundreds of transfers to the Yugoslav and Greek borders are being made.
5. Plovdiv Airfield traffic has greatly diminished and only four fighter trainers are now based there. New Soviet air tactics using four plane formations are being taught. Four or six jet fighters are based at Graf Ignatievo and flown by Bulgarian pilots headed by a major.
6. A mountain pack artillery battalion was reactivated in Asenovgrad and dispatched to an unknown destination.
7. Starting 10 May, five reserve groups were called for specialized training in "secret" weapons in the Haskovo-Kurdzhali area. Courses included voice radio, radar, and new type artillery weapons.
8. Ranks of officers have been banned in press and radio reporting. Only the last name is used.

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25X1A

- 2 -



9. Georgi Chankov has been rumored as slated to take over Premier Chervenkov's job. Titko Chernokolev and two others have reportedly been imprisoned. General Slavcho Trunski and two other generals who were former partisans have also been reported imprisoned.²

10. All government employees who converted to Communism to escape punishment as former "fascists" are now being fired for security reasons.

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1. Comment: there appears to be a possibility that the Bulgarian Army now has two artillery regiments per division.

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2. Comment: Paragraph 10 of also reported the arrest of former Minister of Agriculture Titko Chernokolev, and reported the arrest of General Slavcho Trunski.

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